



## ecology and environment, inc.

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330261

### PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Colleen Hart, U.S. EPA  
FROM: Alice Hadac, FIT  
DATE: September 30, 1991  
SUBJECT: Site 18, Gary, Indiana  
IND980500565/F05-9104-110/FIN0563PA

The location of Site 18 is not known with any certainty. File information indicates locations at or near Site 95 (IND980500151) or Ninth Avenue Dump (IND980679849). The site is believed to be located on a 33-acre parcel of land near the southeast corner of Cline and Chicago avenues, directly south of a gas facility.

In 1980, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) conducted a site inspection and observed an open dump upon which a sludge pile and a surface impoundment were located. Although the inspection report indicates that no hazardous materials were present on-site, no samples were collected to support this assumption.

U.S. EPA performed a preliminary assessment (PA) of the site in 1986, but the presence of the surface impoundment and its volume could not be verified. It was reported in the PA that the impoundment was no longer used and was not easily visible.

In 1987, an Ecology and Environment, Inc., Field Investigation Team (FIT) was tasked to conduct a screening site inspection (SSI) of Site 18. FIT recommended that the site be given a status of "No Further Remedial Action Planned." The site was subsequently classified as "NFRAP" in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System. No SSI was ever conducted.

It is not known whether any hazardous substances have ever been present at Site 18. FIT file information contains references to buried drums on-site, but other file information indicates that these drums may have been buried at Ninth Avenue Dump, which is now on the National Priorities List. There is also an allegation of spent jet fuel having been dumped into a drainage ditch on-site.

FIT conducted an off-site reconnaissance inspection of Site 18 on August 8, 1991. The site is well vegetated, blocking any clear view of the site. A drainage ditch runs along the west border of the site. FIT was unable to follow the path of this ditch to its presumed confluence with the Grand Calumet River, which is located approximately 1/2 mile south of the site.

If hazardous substances are present in the soil at the site and in the former surface impoundment, there is a potential for contaminants to migrate to groundwater because the highly permeable sand and gravel layer at ground surface in the site area would facilitate downward migration into the shallow aquifer. It is assumed that the site is unlined, and that there is no containment. The nearest private wells that use groundwater as a source of drinking water are located approximately 3 1/2 miles south and southeast of the site.

If hazardous substances exits on-site, a release to surface water is also possible because of potential overland migration via drainage ditches and wetland areas near the site. These routes are believed to lead to the Grand Calumet River.

Because the site is unfenced, trespassers may come into contact with hazardous substances on-site. There is a limited potential for a release to the air from possibly contaminated soils because the site is heavily vegetated.

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